



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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### **State to Receive \$300,000 in Casmalia Resources Settlement**

Sacramento - - Citing the need to recover tax payer money spent over the years to address contamination at the former Casmalia Resources hazardous waste disposal site in Santa Barbara County, Department of Toxic Substances Control Director Maureen Gorsen, commended the work of state and federal environmental regulators in reaching an agreement with over 280 private and public entities resolving cleanup and maintenance costs claims.

"This agreement closes an important chapter in the state and federal efforts to adequately address and fund environmental safety measures at this site," said Gorsen. "It will enable the state and the federal government to continue the necessary monitoring needed at the Casmalia Resources facility," Gorsen added.

Under the agreement, the Department of Toxic Substances Control will receive \$108,920; the Central Coast Region Regional Water Quality Control Board \$66,518; and the Department of Fish and Game \$142,290. In addition, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, who has lead status at the site, will receive \$5 million under the terms of the settlement. The settlement agreement can be viewed at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)

The 280 parties entering into the settlement will receive notification letters within the next few weeks from the state's Attorney General's Office to submit payments to the three state agencies.

The 252 acre Casmalia Resources facility, located in the hills of northwest Santa Barbara County, operated from 1972 to 1989. An estimated 5.6 billion pounds of hazardous waste was sent to the facility by over 10,000 generators. The wastes, in liquid and solid form included acids, bases, solvents, pesticides, metals petroleum field wastes, and polychlorinated biphenyls. The wastes were deposited into a series of fifty-eight unlined surface impoundments (commonly called ponds), six unlined landfills, eleven shallow injection wells, several burial trenches and several oil spreading areas.

In 1991 DTSC terminated work on the modernization permit application and U.S. EPA revoked the facility's authorization to operate. Claiming bankruptcy, the owner ceased closure work and all facility maintenance in 1992. As a result, U.S. EPA sent an Emergency Response Team to the site in August of 1992 to prevent deterioration of the facility.

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Between 1998 and 2002 multi-layered covers were constructed over and between four of the six landfills, encompassing an area of 50 acres.

In 2001 the Casmalia Resources facility was placed on the federal Superfund National Priorities List to ensure adequate funding and continued work to complete cleanup of the site.

Cleanup work continues at the Casmalia Resources in close coordination with US EPA and State agencies. DTSC serves as the state contact agency for the site and is responsible for coordinating review and input from other State regulatory agencies such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Water Resources.

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***The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.***